

Application No.: 10/736,494

Docket No.: 2038-318

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 have been amended to better define the claimed invention. Claims 12-20 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The specification and Abstract have been amended to remove certain informalities. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The objection to the specification as well as the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 10 are believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The art rejections relying on *Yoshioka* (U.S. Patent No. 6,635,789) are also believed overcome in view of the amendments made to independent claim 1. In particular, Applicants note the Examiner's argument that the adhesive lines of *Yoshioka* occasionally intersect themselves, and that the intersection of the adhesive line has a double thickness and is readable on the claimed first zones whereas the remainder of the adhesive line has a single thickness and is readable on the claimed second zone. Since the "first zones" of *Yoshioka* are located at the intersections which occur occasionally, the reference does not appear to fairly teach or suggest the newly claimed feature of independent claim 1 that the first zones are distributed along the respective adhesive lines at regular intervals. See *Yoshioka* at, e.g., FIG. 4. This deficiency is not deemed curable by the other, teaching references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the applied art of record. Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 1.

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New independent claim 16 is directed to a disposable wearing article, comprising: at least a pair of sheets; a liquid-absorbent core located between said sheets; and adhesive lines permanently bonding at least two of said core and said sheets together; and each of said adhesive lines being applied on at least one surface of at least one of said core and said sheets and comprising first zones and second zones alternatingly arranged along the adhesive line; wherein said at least two of said core and said sheets are bonded to each other more strongly in said first zones than in said second zones; and said first zones are distributed at substantially equal spacings along the respective adhesive lines. The occasionally occurring "first zones" of *Yoshioka* do not appear to anticipate or render obvious, at least, the highlighted limitation of independent claim 16. This deficiency is not deemed curable by the other, teaching references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 16 is patentable over the applied art of record. Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to claim 16.

As to claim 17, the applied references, especially *Yoshioka*, do not appear to fairly teach or suggest that the adhesive lines are straight, parallel lines. The adhesive lines in, e.g., FIG. 4 of *Yoshioka*, as zigzag lines.

As to claim 18, the applied references, especially *Yoshioka*, do not appear to fairly teach or suggest that the adhesive lines are non-intersecting and each of said adhesive lines does not intersect itself. This limitation distinguishes the claimed invention from the Examiner's reading of *Yoshioka* as manifested in the Office Action, at page 5, lines 1-6.

As to claim 19, the applied references, especially *Yoshioka*, do not appear to fairly teach or suggest that the adhesive lines have intersections at which said first zones are not located. This limitation also distinguishes the claimed invention from the Examiner's reading of *Yoshioka* as manifested in the Office Action, at page 5, lines 1-6.

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As to claim 20, the applied references, especially *Yoshioka*, do not appear to fairly teach or suggest that the adhesive lines are spiral lines each of which intersects itself at a plurality of intersections, and at least one of the first zones on each said spiral lines is not located at said intersections. According to the Examiner's reading of *Yoshioka* as manifested in the Office Action, at page 5, lines 1-6, the reference's "first zones" must be located at the intersections, contrary to the claim requirement.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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571-273-8300
FACSIMILE NUMBER